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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/316,163 05/21/99 SCHWAEBLE W 3523-P-002

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HM22/0315

EXAMINER

DIBRINO, M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1644

DATE MAILED:

03/15/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/316,163

Applicant(s)

Schwaeble et al.

Examiner
Marianne DiBrino

Group Art Unit
1644



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 21, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☒ Claims 1-16 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Please Note:** In an effort to enhance communication with our customers and reduce processing time, Group 1640 is running a Fax Response Pilot for Written Restriction Requirements. A dedicated Fax machine is in place to receive your responses. The Fax number is 703-305-3704. A Fax cover sheet is attached to this Office Action for your convenience. We encourage your participation in this Pilot program. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Paula Hassle, Ph.D., Supervisory Patent Examiner at Paula.Hutzell@uspto.gov or 703-308-4310. Thank you in advance for allowing us to enhance our customer service. Please limit the use of this dedicated Fax number to responses to Written Restrictions.

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121.

I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a molecule comprising complement control protein H modules, classified in Class 530, subclass 381.

II. Claims 11, 12 drawn to a method of manufacture of a medicament, classified in Class 514, subclass 8.

III. Claim 13, drawn to a method of inhibiting complement activation, classified in Class 514, subclass 12.

IV. Claims 14-16, drawn to a nucleotide sequence/DNA molecule, classified in Class 536, subclass 23.5.

3. Inventions I and IV are different products.

Nucleic acids and proteins are distinct because their structures and modes of action are different, which require non-coextensive searches.

Therefore they are patentably distinct.

4. Inventions I and II and Inventions I and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(h)).

In the instant case, the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process such as immunopurification procedures or diagnostic assays.

5. Inventions I and II are different methods.

These inventions require different ingredients and process steps to accomplish the use of either producing a medicament or for inhibiting complement activation.

Therefore they are patentably distinct.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for any group from Groups I-IV is not required for any other group from Groups I-IV and Groups I-IV have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. **If Applicant elects Group I**, Applicant is further required to (1) elect a single disclosed species (a **specific molecule, for example, one of SEQ ID NOS: 9, 10, 11 or 14**) to which claims would be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable and (2) to list all claims readable thereon including those subsequently added.

These species are distinct because their structures and physicochemical properties are different, i.e., they are different proteins of different lengths and structures.

8. **If Applicant elects Group II or Group III**, Applicant is further required to (1) elect a single disclosed species (**a specific method of manufacture (for Group II) employing a specific molecule, for example, one of SEQ ID NOS: 9, 10, 11 or 14, or a specific method of inhibiting complement activation (for Group III) employing a specific molecule, for example, one of SEQ ID NOS: 9, 10, 11 or 14**) to which claims would be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable and (2) to list all claims readable thereon including those subsequently added.

These species are distinct because they are different methods employing different molecules with structures and physicochemical properties that are different, i.e., they are different proteins of different lengths and structures.

9. **If Applicant elects Group IV**, Applicant is further required to (1) elect a single disclosed species (a **specific nucleotide sequence or DNA molecule, for example, one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 or 2**) to which claims would be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable and (2) to list all claims readable thereon including those subsequently added.

These species are distinct because their structures and physicochemical properties are different, i.e., they are different nucleic acid molecules² of different lengths and structures.

Applicant is required to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

10. Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. M.P.E.P. § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

11. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne DiBrino whose telephone number is (703) 308-0061. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center telephone number is (703) 305-3014.

Marianne DiBrino

Marianne DiBrino, Ph.D.
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Group 1640
Technology Center 1600
March 10, 1999

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